(b) if so, the value of the damaged goods and whether the Chief Vigilance Officer has completed his investigation and submitted its report and if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Chief Vigilance officer identified the persons of the Bhandar responsible for causing that loss and if so, the details thereof ;

(d) Whether the financial loss so caused to the Bhandar has been recovered fromhim/them and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps have been taken to recover the financial loss from the concerned persons and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The book value of damaged goods involved was Rs. 1.98 lakhs. The Chief Vigilance officer has since submitted his report. He has concluded that no clear-cut procedures, division of functions and fixing of responsiblility was stipulated in the disposal of damaged goods.

(c) The Chief Vigilance officer did not identify any officer of Kendriya Bhandar responsible for causing the loss.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Supply of substandard spices to Kendriya Bhandar by Ashok Masala Company

1485. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Askok Masala Company had been supplying substandard spices to Kendriya Bhandar in the absence of any testing laboratory arrangements ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a sample of Kali Mirch of the said company, was tested and found adulterated and a case is pending in the Court of Law ; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, Kendriya Bhandar being aware of the reputation of Ashok Masala Company in supplying substandard and adulterated items, has registered the firm against their new name, i.e. Spices Products India Ltd ;

(d) if so, the details therof; and

(e) the action Government propose to take against the guilty persons/officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA) : (a) to (e) M/s Ashok Masala Company has been supplying spices to Kendriya Bhandar on a regular basis till 1992. In the absence of any testing laboratory arrangements till October, 1992, the following quality assurance measures were being taken :

(i) Only Agmark products wherever available were procured. The firm M/s Ashok Masala Company has Agmark certificate for ground masals.

(ii) Samples were drawn from the actual supplies made by the suppliers and sent to an independent laboratory for testing. All the samples were found conforming to prescribed PFA/Agmark specification. Registration of the firms/suppliers was confirmed, including the Ashok Masala Company.

(iii) Registration to suppliers were granted after inspecting factory/ premises of the suppliers by members of the purchase committee and after checking laboratory facilities in respect of holders of Agmark certificate.

(iv) Supplies actually received were compared with the samples submitted alongwith fortnightly tenders.

No customer complaint was received regarding the quality of spices supplied by Ashok Masala Comapany or of other registered suppliers. However, a sample of Kali Mirch supplied by M/s Ashok Masala Company was lifted from Curzon Road Branch store of Kendriya Bhandar on 1-12-1992 and was reported to be adulterated by the Public Analyst under the PFA Act and Rules, and a case is pending in the Court of Law in this regard. The firm was promptly banned from further supplies to Kendriya Bhandar.

It is not a fact that Kendriya Bhandar has registered the firm against their new name 'Spices Products India Ltd'. No such registration has been granted by Kendriya

Bhandar nor have any purchases been made from either Ashok Masala Company after is was banned or from Spices Products India Ltd.

बिहार में नवयुवकों के लिए सिविल सेवा परीक्षा के लिए प्रशिक्षण

1486. **श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया :** क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में बिहार के अर्हता प्राप्त और चयन किए गए परीक्षार्थियों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इस अवधि के दौरान उक्त परीक्षा को राष्ट्रीय आसत में बिहार का प्रतिनिधित्व कितना रहा; और

(ग) क्या सरकार बिहार में शिक्षा क्षेत्र के पिछड़ेपन का ध्यान में रखते हुए इस राज्य के युवकों को सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में अर्हता प्राप्त करने के लिए मदद करने हेतु बिहार में प्रशिक्षण सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराने का विचार रखती है ?

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत तथा पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मार्ग्रेट आल्वा) : (क) और (ख) सरकारी सेवा में प्रवेश के लिए अवसरों की समानता संबंधी संवैधानिक प्रावधानों के संदर्भ में अखिल भारतीय सेवाओं में राज्यवार/क्षेत्रवार प्रतिनिधित्व के ब्यौरे केंद्रीकृत रूप से मानिटर नहीं किए जाते ।

(ग) चूंकि शिक्षा राज्य का विषय है इसलिए यह बिहार सरकार पर निर्भर करता है कि वह सिविल सेवा परीक्षा में बैठने वाले बिहार के उम्मीदवारों के लिए पर्याप्त प्रशिक्षण सुविधाएं उपलब्ध करवाएं ।

Increase in the reservation quota for jobs for SC/ST

1487. SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Convention of SC/ST Members of Parliament and State Legislatures have demanded increase in the reservation quota for employment as per the population; and

(b) whether Government are considering this demand and if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In accordance with the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of Indira Sawhney and others Vs. Union of India and others, the reservations contemplated under Article 16(4) of the Constitution should not exceed of 50% of vacancies arising in a year. Reservation to the extent of 27% of the vacancies have been provided under Article 16(4) to other Backward Classes by orders issued on 8th September, 1993. This is in addition to the reservations already provided, under Article 16(4), to SC and ST. Any further increase for SC/ST, based on the population would cross this 50% limit. This would not be permissible according to the Law.

Penalty for non-supply of required quantity of material

1488. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the firms not supplying the required quantity of material can be penalised by the management of Kendriya Bhandar, as per terms and conditions laid down in the tenders/agreements of contract;

(b) whether it is also a fact that only the Golden Masala Co. has so far been penalised for non-supply of the required quantity, whereas on the same charge the companies like Spices Trading Corporation (Shudh Masala Bhandar) and Ashok Masala Co. had been favoured by the General Manager, Kendriya Bhandar, instead of imposing penalties against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in the matter ?